

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following represents a listing of all the claims in the present application, together with the present status of each, including any amendments being presently submitted. Any claims withdrawn or canceled have been done so without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue any and all such claims in continuing or divisional applications.

Listing of the Claims

1(original). A method for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances of interest after removal from a first user comprising a step of causing said abusable substance of interest that remains in a patch device as removed from a first user to contact a separately stored anti-abuse substance selected from the group consisting of binding agents which immobilize and deactivate said abusable substance, co-soluble antagonists, irritants and combinations thereof thereby reducing the potential for abuse.

2(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

3(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that includes activated carbon.

4(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an antagonist.

5(original). A method as in claim 3 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an antagonist.

6(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

7(original). A method as in claim 3 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

8(original). A method as in claim 1 wherein said abusable substance is an opioid.

9(original). A method as in claim 8 wherein said abusable drug includes a compound of fentanyl.

10(original). A system for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances after administration to a first user comprising:

(a) a disposable container having an opening therein to receive a skin-worn patch device containing a residual amount of an abusable substance therein;

(b) a layer containing an amount of an anti-abuse substance selected from the group consisting of binding agents for said abusable substance in said patch device, co-soluble

antagonists, irritants and combinations thereof, said layer being disposed in said container in a manner such that a skin-worn patch device properly inserted into said container will cause said abusable substance to contact said layer containing said anti-abuse substance; and

(c) closure means for closing said container containing a used skin-worn patch device.

11(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse layer contains a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

12(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

13(original). A system as in claim 11 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

14(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

15(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an antagonist.

16(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said container is in the form of a flexible pouch.

17(original). A system as in claim 10 wherein said closure device includes an adhesive seal.

18(original). A system for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances after administration to a first user, said system comprising:

- (a) an anti-abuse layer containing an amount of an anti-abuse substance for said abusable substance in said patch device selected from the group consisting of binding agents for said abusable substance in said patch device, co-soluble antagonists, irritants and combinations thereof disposed in said patch device;
- (b) a layer containing an amount of said abusable substance in said patch device spaced from said layer containing said anti-abuse substance;
- (c) a separator membrane situated between said layer containing said amount of said anti-abuse substance and said layer containing said abusable substance preventing contact therebetween; and
- (d) a connector means for automatically removing said separator membrane from said patch upon detachment of said patch from a user thereby allowing the anti-abuse layer and the abusable substance layer to become engaged.

19(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said anti-abuse layer contains a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent

selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

20(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

21(original). A system as in claim 19 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes activated carbon.

22(original). A system as in claim 16 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

23(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an antagonist.

24(original). A system as in claim 18 wherein said connector means for automatically removing said separator membrane includes a device that adhesively attaches to the skin of a user and pulls said separator from said patch upon detachment of said patch from a user.

25(original). A method for reducing potential for substance abuse in skin-worn transdermal patch devices containing residual amounts of abusable substances of interest after removal from a first user comprising steps of:

- (a) providing an amount of an anti-abuse substance maintained separated from said abusable substance of interest;
- (b) causing said abusable substance of interest that remains in a patch device as removed from a first user to contact said anti-abuse substance; and

(c) wherein said anti-abuse substance is selected from the group consisting of binding agents which immobilize and deactivate said abusable substance, co-soluble antagonists, irritants and combinations thereof.

26(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that prevents extraction of said abusable substance of interest using a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol or combinations thereof.

27(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes a binding agent that includes activated carbon.

28(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said abusable substance is an opioid.

29(original). A method as in claim 28 wherein said abusable drug includes a compound of fentanyl.

30(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance is stored in a pouch and step (b) involves inserting a removed patch into the pouch.

31(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance is stored in a layer separated by a removable membrane from the abusable substance and wherein in step (b) removing the patch causes the membrane to be removed and the abusable substance to contact the anti-abuse substance.

32(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of an irritant.

33(original). A method as in claim 25 wherein said anti-abuse substance includes an amount of a co-soluble antagonist.